Coalition SOF Support to the War on Terrorism (WOT)

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This briefing is UNCLASSIFIED

Coalition Contributions to WOT

- Over 80 countries supporting Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF):
  - 64 countries have contributed conventional forces
  - 12 countries have contributed Coalition SOF (CSOF)

- In addition to providing forces, Coalition partners have made important contributions across the spectrum of operations:
  - Sharing intelligence
  - Providing liaison teams and supporting planning efforts
  - Providing materiel assistance
  - Providing basing, access, and over flight permission
  - Providing Humanitarian Assistance

Unity of Effort via Coalition operations is the key to strategic success in WOT

Coalition SOF in WOT

- SOF from numerous Coalition partners are currently operating in the CENTCOM AOR.

- CSOF current mission sets:
  - Direct Action (DA)
  - Special reconnaissance (SR)
  - Unconventional warfare (UW)
  - Civil Affairs (CA)
  - PSYOPS

- Successes:
  - CSOF operations in their own Joint Special Operations Areas (JSOAs)
  - Seizure of GOPLATs; prevention of environmental crisis / securing Iraqi National resource
  - Integration of CSOF and conventional force operations
  - FID, CST

Improving / Sustaining Interoperability

- **GOAL:** Assist countries within the CENTCOM AOR to develop an organic Special Operations and Counter-Terrorist capability to conduct successful CT operations within their borders
  - Work to develop Bi-Lateral SOF operations between Countries
  - Assist countries sub-regionally to develop bi-lateral and tri-lateral SOF operations (regional coalition operations)

- Combined Training and Exercises
  - Cornerstone of regional security
  - Develop and exercise command and control and communications
  - Venue to learn from past experiences and share successful Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for future deployments

Mutual trust and coalition interoperability equals success on the

Achieving OIF/OEF Interoperability

- General Preparation:
  - Use of CENTCOM Coalition Coordination Cell (CCC), Senior National Representatives, Defense Attaches
  - Predeployment /Interoperability Training
  - Communications Security Agreements (COMSEC MOA)
  - Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreements (ACSA)
  - Combined Training and Exercises

- Operational Considerations:
  - Linguists
  - Troop Rotations
  - Strategic movement
  - Medical Evacuation

- Employment is based on mission requirements, capability and desired effects

No simple solution to interoperability

Strategic Lessons Learned

- The enemy has access to and is using information technology
- Defeating terrorist organizations requires an international and inter-agency (civilian-military) approach
- World opinion can be shaped by the “soda straw” images portrayed on TV

Conclusions

- CSOF are valuable contributions to GWOT, far in excess of their numbers
  - Tactical application of SOF to achieve strategic affects
- The Special Operations Community must develop a worldwide SOF standard in order to achieve interoperability
- Employment of CSOF requires detailed planning
- SOF Truths
  - Humans are more important than hardware
  - Quality is better than Quantity
  - Special Operations Forces cannot be massed produced
  - Competent Special Operations Forces cannot be created after emergencies occur